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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising
4 the steps of:

5 answering the incoming call by the telecommunication
6 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
7 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;

8 muting an audio path of the answered call from
9 communication with the user; and

10 receiving a time specifying the delay from the user
11 after the incoming call is received;

12 inserting the time into a predefined message; and

13 transmitting [[a]] the predefined message that is
14 selected by the user to the calling party.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprises
2 the step of maintaining the incoming call from the calling party
3 with the audio path muted to the user; and

4 allowing audio communication by the user with calling
5 party in response to another input from the user.

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1 3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~
2 ~~further comprises the step of~~ A method for alerting a calling
3 party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered by a
4 user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising the
5 steps of:
6 answering the incoming call by the telecommunication
7 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
8 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
9 muting an audio path of the answered call from
10 communication with the user; and
11 transmitting a message that is selected by the user to
12 the calling party; and
13 terminating the incoming call after transmission of the
14 message.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the
2 message is an audio message and the audio message is
3 transmitted via the audio path to the calling party.

1 5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1
2 wherein the step of inserting comprises converting the time to
3 audio information for insertion into the predefined message.

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1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprises
2 the step of recording the predefined message.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the
2 message is a text message.

1 9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the
2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 8
2 further comprises the step of entering the predefined message.

1 12. (Original) A method for alerting a calling party of
2 a delay before an incoming call will be answered by a user of a
3 called wireless handset, comprising the steps of:
4 answering the incoming call by the wireless handset in
5 response to one of at least an input from the user or a
6 predefined amount of movement of the wireless handset when
7 the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
8 muting an audio path of the answered call from
9 communication with the user; and
10 transmitting a message that is selected by the user to
11 the calling party.

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1 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further
2 comprises the step of maintaining the incoming call from the
3 calling party with the audio path muted to the user; and
4 allowing audio communication by the user with calling
5 party in response to another input from the user.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 12 further
2 comprises the step of terminating the incoming call after
3 transmission of the message.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the
2 message is an audio message and the audio message is
3 transmitted via the audio path to the calling party.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further
2 comprises the steps of receiving a time specifying the delay;
3 and
4 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the
2 step of inserting comprises converting the time to audio
3 information for insertion into the predefined message.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further
2 comprises the step of recording the predefined message.

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1 19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the
2 message is a text message.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further
2 comprises the steps of receiving a time specifying the delay;
3 and
4 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the
2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further
2 comprises the step of entering the predefined message.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising
4 the steps of:
5 receiving a time specifying the delay from the user
6 after the incoming call is received;
7 transmitting a message including the time to a
8 wireless switching system in response to the incoming call by
9 the telecommunication terminal in response to an input from the
10 user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in
11 another call;

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12 inserting the time into a predefined message that is
 13 selected by the user to the calling party by the wireless
 14 switching system;
 15 transmitting by the wireless switching system ~~[[a]] the~~
 16 predefined message ~~that is selected by the user to the calling~~
 17 party; and
 18 placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless
 19 switching system.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further
 2 comprises the step of taking the incoming call off of hold and
 3 establishing audio communication between the user and calling
 4 party in response to another input from the user.

1 25. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 23~~
 2 ~~further comprises the step of~~ A method for alerting a calling
 3 party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered by a
 4 user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising the
 5 steps of:
 6 transmitting a message to a wireless switching system
 7 in response to the incoming call by the telecommunication
 8 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
 9 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
 10 transmitting by the wireless switching system a
 11 message to the calling party;

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12 placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless
13 switching system; and
14 terminating the incoming call after transmission of the
15 message.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the
2 message is an audio message and the audio message is
3 transmitted via a voice messaging system.

1 27. (Canceled)

1 28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~27~~ 23
2 wherein the step of inserting comprises converting the time to
3 audio information for insertion into the predefined message.

1 29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further
2 comprises the step of recording the predefined message by the
3 user.

1 30. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the
2 message is a text message.

1 31. (Canceled)

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the
2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

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1 33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 30
2 further comprises the step of entering the predefined message.

1 34. (Original) A processor-readable medium for
2 alerting a calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be
3 answered by a user of a called wireless handset, comprising
4 processor-executable instructions configured for:
5 answering the incoming call by the wireless handset in
6 response to one of at least an input from the user or a
7 predefined amount of movement of the wireless handset when
8 the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
9 muting an audio path of the answered call from
10 communication with the user; and
11 transmitting a message that is selected by the user to
12 the calling party.

1 35. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 34 further comprises maintaining the incoming call from
3 the calling party with the audio path muted to the user; and
4 allowing audio communication by the user with calling
5 party in response to another input from the user.

1 36. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 34 further comprises terminating the incoming call after
3 transmission of the message.